

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

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ARTICLE ROUND UP

JANUARY 2011

EDUCATION

1. "Teachers Make the Move to the Virtual World"
Katie Ash. The Education Digest, January 2011, 3 pages.

The author, a writer for *Education Week*, discusses the challenges of integrating technology in a face-to-face classroom and offers strategies for teachers to successfully transition to online teaching.

"10 Tips on How to Write Less Badly"
 Michael C. Munger, The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 10, 2010, 2 pages.

The author, a chairman of political science at Duke University, discusses the inability of college teachers and administrators to write well, and offers ten tips to help academics improve their writing.

3. **"A Study of Thoughtful Literacy and the Motivation To Read"**Anthony Applegate, Mary Dekonty Applegate, **Reading Teacher**, Dec. 2010, Vol. 64, Issue 4, 9 pages.

The article discusses connections between what the authors call thoughtful literacy and children's motivation to read. The authors suggest that reading teachers can improve reading motivation in their students by encouraging them to explore texts thoughtfully and critically. They present information on a study they conducted to address connections between inclination toward thoughtful response and reading motivation, the influence of gender on reading motivation, and correlations between reading motivation and grade level. The authors present their results, which indicate that elementary school children are generally unmotivated to read, that more boys than girls feel a sense of disdain for reading, and that an enjoyment of reading fostered an appreciation for the value of reading.

4. "The Open Ed Tech"

Brian Lamb and Jim Groom. Educause Review, July/August 2010, 8 pages.

The authors analyze the prospects for openness in educational technology and the benefits of the self-evident strategic technology framework offered by Web 2.0 service providers.

"Taking the Long View: Ten Recommendations about Time, Money, Technology, and Learning"

Stephen C. Ehrmann. **Change**, September/October 2010, 7 pages.

The author, an associate clinical professor of learning technologies at Drexel University, offers recommendations on how to improve time, technology, teaching, and degree programs in education.

6. "The Myth of Learning Styles"

Cedar Riener and Daniel Willingham. Change, September/October 2010, 4 pages.

The authors discuss learning styles and the reasons behind the prevalence of beliefs in them. They also examine why college educators need to address the direct costs of the learning-style myth.

7. "How Do you Learn to Edit Yourself?"

Rachel Toor, **Chronicle of Higher Education,** October 2010, Vol. 57, Issue 6, 1 page

The article presents the author's suggestions to academic writers for ways to improve and revise their own work. She suggests that writers focus not only on the content of their academic research, but also the style in which they write. She recommends the books "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk and E.B. White and "Economical Writing" by Deirdre McCloskey for those needing a refresher-course in writing in order to make their own writing more creative and appealing.

8. "Bad Writing and Bad Thinking"

Rachel Toor, **Chronicle of Higher Education**, April 2010, Vol. 56, Issue 31, 2 pages

The author discusses what she sees as poor academic writing. She notes that many graduate students think they have to use big words and complex sentences in order to fit in with their profession. She cites the 1946 essay "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell which explains the connections between bad writing and bad thinking. She argues that academics should reread the essay as well as the book "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk and E.B. White. She notes Orwell's list of bad habits which includes use of dying metaphors, overly complicated terms, and passive voice.

BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP

9. "The Hidden Advantages of Quiet Bosses"

Adam Grant, Francesca Gino, David Hofmann, **Harvard Business Review**, Dec. 2010, Vol. 88, Issue 12, 4 pages.

The article discusses research that identified situations where introverts are more apt to be effective leaders than extroverts. Although it is generally accepted that extroverts make the best leaders, the authors found that introverts can be better in unpredictable, changing environments where workers are proactive about sharing their ideas.

10. "Good Decisions. Bad Outcomes"

Davann Ariely, Harvard Business Review, Dec. 2010, Vol. 88, Issue 12, 2 pages.

The article comments on how rewards and punishments for managers often depend on unpredictable circumstances entirely beyond their control. Board members the author has spoken to seem to understand this, as reflected by the fact that they believe the difference between a good chief executive and an average one is worth about a 10% premium in the stock price. The author suggests ways firms can improve how they evaluate managers.

11. "What Does Your Logo Really Tell Consumers"

Niel Van Quaquebeke, Steffen Giessner, **Harvard Business Review**, Dec. 2010, Vol. 88, Issue 12, 2 pages.

The article discusses corporate logos. Research by Niels van Quaquebeke and Steffen Giessner of the Rotterdam School of Management found that people are more likely to assume ethical behavior on the part of firms with symmetrical logos than they are with companies whose logos are asymmetrical. It is noted that retailer Gap Inc. withdrew a redesigned logo that met with much criticism.

12. When Writing Predicts Violence"

Gretchen Oltman, Esq., **Principle Leadership**, March 2010, 2 pages

Knowing legal guidelines and effective writing instruction can help principals determine when violent writing is threatening behavior or merely creative expression.

ENVIRONMENT

13. Energetic Cities: Energy, Environment and Strategic Thinking" Paul Sullivan. World Policy Journal, Winter 2010/11, 3 pages.

The author, a professor of economics at the National Defense University, examines the use of energy in cities around the world, focusing on the environmental impact and the future of the global climate.

14. "The Hot Zone"

Linda Marsa. **Discover**, December 2010, 7 pages.

The author examines the emergence of certain diseases in the United States and the effects of rising global temperatures on the spread of these diseases and toxins.

LIBRARY TRENDS

15. "Practice. Keeping Up, 2.0 Style"

Meredith Farkas, American Libraries, Jan/Feb. 2011, Vol. 42, 1 page

The article discusses the use of RSS feeds, tools for subscribing to web 2.0 content such as blogs and other web content, by researchers and librarians. The author suggests subscribing to the RSS feeds of scholarly journals and database vendors such as EBSCO, ProQuest, and Elsevier in order to locate and read updated web 2.0 information.

16. "Library Kiosks"

Joanna Aegard. Computers in Libraries, October 2010, 5 pages.

The author, Head of Virtual Services at the Thunder Bay Public Library in Ontario, explores how patrons and staff use library kiosks operated by the Thunder Bay Public Library, and discusses the evolution of library kiosks from serving computerized card catalogs into access points for a variety of online services.

17. "Does Taxonomy Matter in a New World of Search and Discovery" Suzanne BeDell and Libby Trudell. Online Magazine, September/October 2010, 3 pages.

The authors explore whether taxonomies still add value at a time when keyword searching seems sufficient to many users, and how to blend taxonomy and other tools in the new world of search.

18. "Libraries, Ebooks, and Competition"

Eric Hellman. Library Journal, August 2010, 2 pages.

The author discusses the impact of technology on the value delivered by libraries, competition, and library use, focusing on the effects on competition for library services and library lending.

19. "Knowledge Management and Library Culture"

Lynette Ralph, Cathy Tijerino, **College and Undergraduate Library**, Oct-Dec. 2009, Vol. 16, Issue 4, 9 pages.

Knowledge management (KM), or the effective use of knowledge, has been practiced successfully by many business organizations. Individual libraries and librarians have periodically utilized KM. However, on a comprehensive scale, the library culture seems divided. This article examines the attitudes and practices of two distinct groups of specialized librarians and their relationship to the use of KM tools. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR].

SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

20. "Teachers Make the Move to the Virtual World"

Katie Ash, **Education Digest**, Jan 2011, Vol. 76, Issue 5, 3 pages.

The article discusses the challenges and opportunities for educational innovation presented by teaching online courses. The author examines the methods used by Illinois Virtual School teacher Jim Kinsella including his policy that students call or contact him via voice-over-internet program Skype at least once a week. Matt Lozano, another teacher who transitioned from a classroom environment to online instruction, notes the difficulty of allowing students to facilitate their own discussions as a difficult aspect of leading online classes. The importance of parent and teacher interaction in student success rates is also discussed.

21. "Sharing and Caring"

Douglas Alexander. **USA Today Magazine**, September 2010, 2 pages.

With the use of mobile devices like the camera phones, people can directly and instantly send photos to their favorite websites. The author, a general manager of Flickr, discusses the importance of photo sharing to help make the world smaller and more memorable.

22. "Facebook VS. Twitter: Battle of the Social Network Stars" Curt Tagtmeier. Computers in Libraries, September 2010, 5 pages.

The author, a reference librarian at Fremont Public Library in Mundelein, Illinois, discusses whether libraries need to choose between Facebook and Twitter when

joining online social networking programs to reach patrons, and examines the costs and effectiveness of maintaining both accounts.

23. "Social Networking Goes to School"

Michelle R. Davis. The Education Digest, November 2010, 6 pages.

The author, a staff writer for *Education Week Digital Directions*, discusses education and online social networking, focusing on various issues surrounding the use of social networking in a classroom.

24. "Key Emerging Technologies for Postsecondary Education"

Laurence F. Johnson, et al. **The Education Digest**, October 2010, 5 pages.

The authors examine emerging technologies that could have an impact on education between 2010 and 2015. Predictions of key trends and critical challenges that face education and technology are also discussed.

25. "Adventures in Social Media"

Adi Ignatius, Harvard Business Review, Dec. 2010, Vol. 88, Issue 12, 1 page

The article presents an introduction to content in the current issue including an article by David Edelman on how the ready availability of data and opinions has affected consumer behavior, another by Leslie Gaines-Ross on how companies can defend their reputations, and a third by Patrick Spenner on the importance of adding persons knowledgeable about social media to leadership teams.